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US # 5961,531

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The United States of America



The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

Todd Pichini

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United States Patent [19]

Weber et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** **5,961,531**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 5, 1999**[54] **CONVERTIBLE RONGEUR**[75] Inventors: **Helmut Weber; Gernot Weber**, both of Emmingen-Liptingen, Germany[73] Assignee: **KMedic, Inc.**, Northvale, N.J.[21] Appl. No.: **09/078,587**[22] Filed: **May 13, 1998**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **A61B 17/32**[52] U.S. Cl. **606/167; 606/168; 606/169; 606/170; 606/183; 604/22**[58] Field of Search **606/183, 184, 606/79, 83, 84, 167, 168, 169, 170; 604/22**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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Primary Examiner—Michael Buiz*Assistant Examiner*—Len Ngo*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP; Ronald Abramson; Peter A. Sullivan[57] **ABSTRACT**

A convertible rongeur is shown, with a top shaft that opens from the front, to allow access for cleaning, yet remains attached to the body of the device even when fully opened. In the preferred embodiment, the top shaft of the rongeur is held in positive engagement with the front handle piece of the rongeur by means of a spring loaded, retractable slot and pin linkage, and the permanent attachment between the top shaft and the remainder of the instrument is through a movable linkage at the rear. The rongeur is thus fully openable for cleaning, yet remains in one piece when opened for cleaning, and retains all of the advantages of permanently assembled prior art rongeurs.

7 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets